



Meeting Notes

Place: Jaffrey Select Board

Date: October 11, 2021

Notes Taken by: M. Kennedy and B. Landry

VHB 52792.00
Project #:

Re: Jaffrey US 202 Improvements
16307

Attendees: Tobey Reynolds NHDOT, Bob Landry VHB, Marty Kennedy VHB

Representatives of the NHDOT and VHB attended the October 11, 2021 Select Board meeting to provide the Board an initial briefing on the status of the Jaffrey US 202 final design. Tobey Reynolds introduced himself as the NHDOT's Project Manager and thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide this briefing on the US 202 Improvement project. He proceeded to introduce Marty Kennedy who will be responsible for the Public Outreach element of the project and Bob Landry who will be serving as an Assistant to the NHDOT Project Manager. Mr. Reynolds noted that Mr. Landry is a former Project Manager at the NHDOT and in this assistant role, he will be representing the NHDOT at many of the future meetings.

At this point, Mr. Kennedy reviewed the plan that is being advanced to final design noting the extensive public outreach effort that was involved in gaining consensus and acceptance through the Public Hearing process. Mr. Kennedy proceeded to describe the various components of the public outreach program that will be used to keep the community informed as the final design advances. The components include a project website, an email stakeholder distribution list, project newsletters, public meetings, Main Street walkarounds, property owner meetings, and briefings to the Select Board. He also noted that the Town will have an opportunity to provide input on the "look" of the new bridge and other aesthetic aspects of the project.

Mr. Landry then proceeded to describe his role as assistant to the NHDOT Project Manager and reviewed the project schedule consisting of:

- Phase 1 (Summer/Fall 2021) Field Survey/Borings
- Phase 2 (Fall 2021/Winter/Spring 2022) Progress Selected Alternative
- Phase 3 (Summer/Fall 2022) Continue Right-of Way Negotiations
- Phase 4 (Winter 2022/Spring 2023) Complete Design and ROW efforts
- Advertise Project – Summer 2023
- A building demolition project for the Lab and Lager building and the River Street Apartment building is planned for the summer of 2022

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The following is a sampling of some of the comments expressed by Board members or members of the public.

- Concern with potential height of the new bridge and its visual impact when people on Main Street are looking upstream. There was a general concern that the bridge would be at the top of the trees in the background in the presentation photo. *Answer – NHDOT will bring back a rendering using the photo once the bridge dimensions are determined.*
- If the War Memorial park is expanded to the south to mitigate the project's impact on the River Street side of the park, the NHDOT would need to ensure the stability of the riverbank for this expanded segment. *Answer – NHDOT understands and agrees with the need to meet with the War Memorial Committee to discuss a reconfiguration of their site based on the project impacts to their parcel and the remnant of the adjacent parcel. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2022. This allows for the bridge length and the preliminary bridge plans to be completed along with the Roadway Slope and Drain plans to better understand the impacts from the project on both parcels. NHDOT also understands the concern expressed with addressing the existing retaining wall on the abutting parcel if that section of land is transferred to the War Memorial Committee.*
- Will the demolition of the apartment building at 15 River Street impact the War Memorial Park? *Answer – It will not. All access for the effort will be from the apartment building parcel (no need to access the site from the War Memorial parcel).*
- Does the project include sidewalks on both sides of River Street? *Answer – yes, up to the roundabout on River Street. From there, there is a sidewalk along River Street to the northwest side that ties into School Street on the same side of the US 202.*
- With the designation of the new connector roadway as US 202, will the section of River Street between Main Street and the new connector roadway still be a state designated route? *Answer – This section of River Street could become NH 137 to the new roundabout or this could remain as River Street. The maintenance of this section of roadway will need to be discussed with the Town as the project progresses.*
- The Town has established a Committee that will be providing input to the project team to coordinate town planned aesthetic enhancements (streetscape, lighting, etc.) along the roadway and on the bridge.
- *Can the inside of the roundabouts be landscaped and contain statues? Answer – Yes, the Department would like to discuss with the Town potential items that can be placed in the center of the roundabouts and a Memorandum of Understanding on the maintenance of those items by the Town. NHDOT typically discourages fixed objects in case of an errant driver, but fully supports low landscaping items. The center of the roundabouts are areas that will not have access by pedestrians but are areas of viewing. Landscaping items also need to consider not to distract from the drivers view or attention.*
- Will the existing Main Street bridge be upgraded as part of this project. *Answer – Currently, the bridge preservation effort on the Main Street bridge will happen after the completion of this effort in a separate future project. The topside sidewalks, pavement, and stripping will be reconstructed as part of this project.*

- The existing Main Street bridge sidewalks are in rough shape, can they be patched? *Answer – The concern will be given to the Bureau of Bridge Maintenance. They will assess the condition and make a to extend the condition of the sidewalks until addressed as part of this project.*
- Mark Cournoyer of Cournoyer Funeral Home (parcel 2) asked about ROW funds to address any functional (not loss of business during construction) concerns with impacts to the parcel caused by the project? *Answer – Bob indicated that he would pass Mark's information along to NHDOT ROW Agent. After the meeting, it was determined, there are no current physical impacts to parcel 2. Bob will still give Mark's information to the NHDOT ROW Agent.*
- Where will the construction staging be located? *Answer – it's too early to know at this point, but a potential location would be the state-owned parking lot on Blake Street.*
- When would construction begin and how long will it take to finish? *Answer – Initial thinking is the majority off the on-site construction activities that would impact traffic would be Spring of 2024 with the current Summer of 2023 advertising date. The new bridge construction will likely begin during the late fall of 2023 through the winter, but those efforts will not require any changes in traffic movements. The new connector bridge, roadway, and roundabouts would be constructed in 2024 with construction on River Street and Main Street continuing into 2025. This will be developed in more detail once the Preliminary Bridge Plans and the Slope & Drain Plans are completed. NHDOT can update the Town on this once developed in more detail.*